



Notes from the Director

No. 18

19 December 1977

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT

Senator Inouye recently made a report to the Senate on his year-and-a-half as the Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. The highlights are quoted below:

In recent years the Intelligence Community, particularly the CIA and the FBI, have been the targets of suspicion and abuse. There is no question that a number of abuses of power, mistakes in judgment, and failures by the intelligence agencies have harmed the United States. We, of course, hope that these abuses are behind us and will not occur again. These events did not happen in a vacuum. In almost every instance, the abuses that have been revealed were a result of direction from above, including presidents and secretaries of state. Further, in almost every instance, some members of both houses of Congress assigned the duty of oversight were knowledgeable about these activities.

Every organization, whether the Congress, the White House, the CIA, a corporation, a university, or a church, is made up of men and women with their full share of excellences and failures. With the exception of a very small number who broke the law or failed in their trust, we owe a great debt to our Intelligence Community. It is made up of men and women of unusual dedication and ability who serve our country under the most difficult of circumstances. We can be proud that they have come through the trials of the past several years with a clearer sense of purpose and with a strengthened belief in the value of a life of service to our nation.

The Intelligence Community has been in a turmoil over the past few years. It has been the subject of a number of Congressional inquiries, internal investigations, and intense criticism from the press and the public. With the support of the President and under the firm direction of Stansfield Turner, the Intelligence Community is in the process of creating a new organizational structure which should lead to more efficient coordination of its worldwide activities and a better overall intelligence product. It is my view that the intelligence agencies of the United States are now functioning under strict guidelines set forth by the President and the National Security Council, which

lay out clear missions, limitations, and accountability, as well as rigorous oversight by both the House and the Senate. While many improvements and reforms are called for, it is my evaluation that the present quality of the work of the United States Intelligence Community is good, and shows every sign of becoming better.

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

I have reported previously the remarks of the President in support of the work of the Agency. Here is another example. The minutes of the Cabinet meeting of 14 November contain this entry:

The President said that one of the pleasant surprises since becoming President is the very high quality of CIA briefings. He urged Cabinet Departments to make use of relevant CIA information. Mr. Marshall, Secretary of Labor, said that his weekly briefing by the CIA is extremely helpful.

PROTECTION OF SOURCES AND METHODS

Inadvertent and unauthorized disclosures of sources and methods in the news media continue to be a serious problem. In protection of liberties and in alerting the public to grave issues facing the nation there is probably no equal to the American news media. They are well trained in seeking out stories and filling out an article to the fullest. That is their profession. Our profession, however, calls for secrecy. It is a tragedy to see articles in the news media quoting our intelligence reports verbatim and revealing sensitive sources and methods. Such disclosures inevitably curtail the effectiveness of, and sometimes eliminate altogether, some of our most important intelligence sources, human as well as technical. Overall, Agency people are very much aware of the damages that can accrue from inadvertent or deliberate leaks. I ask your continued cooperation in this task.

I raised this issue last week when I spoke to three different audiences of businessmen and to students at Yale University. In all cases there was genuine concern about our ability to preserve adequate secrecy in intelligence operations. This appreciation of our problem is encouraging. Anyone interested in reading the text of the speeches may obtain copies from the Public Affairs Office.

PERSONAL CONTACT WITH EMPLOYEES

I am continuing to meet about once a week with groups of Agency employees representing a wide variety of interests. These have included the Directorate Management Advisory Groups, Midcareer Course representatives, secretaries, women, handicapped, and summer interns. They have brought many important issues to my attention and have generated excellent suggestions. I have asked [] Deputy Executive Secretary, to coordinate the staffing of each suggestion and to keep you informed of those which are implemented.

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The considerable effort of those who have participated in past groups is sincerely appreciated. As we continue to seek ways to improve the Agency as a place to work and to improve our product, I look to you for your best ideas, either through participation in a future group meeting or through suggestions sent directly to me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stansfield Turner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

STANSFIELD TURNER
Director